

The participants also learnt that there was still room for amendments as the Municipal Charter has not yet been gazetted and also the Department through the CEC-Member for Urban Development has provisions of the Act that provides for amendments to be done if found necessary. This assurance of public participation by the legal team and the Department of Urban Development was accepted by all stakeholders present.

Overview of the Municipal Charter

The County legal team took the participants present through a detailed presentation of Municipal Charter.

The facilitators began this session by informing the participants on the definitions of a Municipality which was defined as a single urban or administrative division having corporate status and powers of self-government or jurisdiction as granted by National and County legislation to which it is subordinate.

The participants also learnt the Municipal Charter provides for the Name and boundaries of the municipality which is Marsabit Municipality and its boundaries will be that of the current Saku – Sub County.

The participants were very eager to learn the functions of the Municipality and this was also well outlined in the Municipal Charter which was presented by the facilitators and some of the functions the municipality will perform include: promotion ,regulation and provision of refuse collection and solid waste management services, promotion and provision of water and sanitation services and infrastructure and provision of Municipal Administrative services among others indicated in the municipal charter.

The participants had lengthy deliberations and analysis of the Municipal charter. The participants expressed their fears of increase in taxes and land rates.The facilitators assured the participants all decisions made by the municipality will be according to the laid down procedures by the urban Areas and Cities Act and the municipal charter therefore they should not be worried as public participation will be done when such decisions will be made.

The facilitators explained to the stakeholders that there were great opportunities that come with Municipal status including World Bank grant under urban development program(UDP) and many more to come as all the 47 counties are rushing to gain Municipal or City Status and therefore Marsabit County should not be left behind because of fear of issues such as increase in taxes and rates.

In all the forums the participants appreciated the meeting but emphasized more of general public sensitization as it was a new thing which comes with its own benefits and challenges.

CHALLENGES NOTED ACROSS THE WARDS DURING SENSITIZATION